

# to the editor

## Suggested coverage

Although the main goal of SCIENCE NEWS is to popularize science, I find it lacking in one aspect. It should be recognized that the agricultural and food sciences are as important for a person as other branches of science. I suggest that a new department for Agricultural Sciences be created and news in this area be regularly covered by SCIENCE NEWS.

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Department of Biological and  
Agricultural Engineering  
Raleigh, N.C.

*(We appreciate Dr. Mohapatra's suggestion but point out that we do report on developments in agricultural science, although admittedly not as frequently as in many other fields. Incidentally, we regard our goal as less to "popularize science" than to provide well-balanced news accounts and discussions of advances in science and of important public issues related to science.—Ed.)*

## Proper perspectives

The article on heavy ion high- and medium-energy physics (SN: 10/16/71, p. 267) shows the usual understanding of physics and high quality reporting of Dietrick Thomsen. We are particularly happy to see that the potentials for cancer therapy and other research are put in their proper perspectives. I should like to point out that the radiobiological and biophysical programs using charged particles have been under the leadership of Prof. Cornelius Tobias at Berkeley for the past many years. Effective use of charged particles in ablation of the pituitary for the treatment of acromegaly, Cushing's disease, and other disorders in over 560 patients has been accomplished under the leadership of Prof. John Lawrence and Dr. James Born.

Our excitement about the extraction of nitrogen ion beams in the biologically appropriate energy range of 200 to 500 MeV per nucleon, and the potentials for higher Z up to neon, has been shared by a group at the Princeton Particle Accelerator, who have extracted nitrogen ions and completed some substantial preliminary work in radiobiology under the leadership of Dr. Milton White and radiobiologist Dr. Paul Todd.

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Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory  
Berkeley, Calif.

*The airbrush drawing used on the cover and on p. 346 of the Nov. 20 issue, conceptualizing the arrangement of equipment in a planned proton experiment, was prepared for SCIENCE NEWS by Walter W. Zawojski, graphic artist at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. We gratefully acknowledge his contribution.—Ed.*

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# films OF THE WEEK

**STICKS AND STONES WILL BUILD A HOUSE.** 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. The film traces the development of Indian architecture in the Southwestern United States. Initially, shelter was in the form of crude pit-houses. Later, builders began using masonry construction, and finally, during the great Pueblo period, built sophisticated apartment-type complexes housing as many as 2,000 tenants. Early attempts to explore remaining ruins are seen in film footage photographed during archaeological expeditions in the 1920's. Audience: high school, college, adult. Purchase \$315 or rental \$11.50 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**THE ENLIGHTENED ACT.** 16mm, color, sound, 25 min. California's Lanterman-Petris-Short Act has been called "the Magna Carta of the mentally ill." It assures the patient prompt evaluation and treatment close to home, protection of civil and property rights, and no unnecessary hospitalization. The law is serving as a model for other states and counties. The film explains how the act works within a community mental health setting. A Superior Court hearing demonstrates how the civil rights of mental patients are protected. Audience: general. Purchase \$250 or rental \$20 from Lawren Productions, Dept. SN, P.O. Box 1542, Burlingame, Calif. 94010.

**SIGNALS FOR SURVIVAL.** 16mm, color, sound, 51 min. Noted ethologist Niko Tinbergen has exhaustively studied the less black-backed gull to demonstrate the fact that animals have developed a clear, predictable and functional system of language to communicate with one another. The film explores the territorial, courtship and nesting behavior of gulls; shows how their sign language makes it possible for them to live and breed together in large colonies, and stresses how important such communication is for their survival. Audience: intermediate through college, general. Purchase \$610 or rental \$45 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. SN, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

**EGGS.** 16mm, color, sound, 10 min. The new Hubley cartoon about human ecology problems and the future of planet earth. EGGS is an excellent opener for discussions of some vital issues confronting mankind today: Human ecology—what will be the quality and nature of life in the future? Population control and family planning—do we have a choice? Religion; ethics; morality; scientific humanism—who will plan? EGGS is an example of the sophisticated film work of two of this country's top animators, artists who are concerned with mankind and its future and offer an optimistic outlook. Audience: general. Purchase \$150 or rental \$20 from Film Images, Dept. SN, 17 W. 60th St., New York, N.Y. 10023.

**THE SUICIDE CLINIC.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. A suicide attempt is really a cry for help, sympathy, and understanding, and the suicide clinic offers an outlet through which people may talk out their problems. Most suicide attempts come during a crisis and then the person completely recovers—usually never to think again about suicide. It is brought out that suicides cross all socio-economic levels and that these individuals are not necessarily less stable emotionally. Suicide is usually linked with long-term depression involving love, work or physical illness. Therapy and the need for recognition of suicidal persons are also looked at in this film. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$165 or rental \$7.75 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

*Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.*



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